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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/098,693	03/15/2002	William A. Whittenberger	555-02	5139

7590 10/06/2003

William H. Eilberg
420 Old York Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046

EXAMINER

COCKS, JOSIAH C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3749

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/098,693

Applicant(s)

WHITTENBERGER, WILLIAM A.

Examiner

Josiah C. Cocks

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings filed with the application on 3/15/02 are accepted by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Betta et al.* (US # 5,512,250).

Betta et al. discloses a catalytic combustor as described in applicant's claims 1-20 including a plurality of corrugated strips (42 and 44) alternating with a plurality of flat strips (40), wherein the corrugated and flat strips define a plurality of channels (46 and 48) (see Figs. 4-8 and col. 16, lines 21-25), wherein the combustor has an inlet end and an outlet end, wherein some of the channels are coated with catalyst and wherein some of the channels are not coated with catalyst (see col. 16, lines 25-42). *Betta et al.* further discloses additional strips, coated with catalyst, and located within one of said coated channels, in a vicinity of the inlet end and including corrugations in phase with and of lesser amplitude than primary corrugated strips (see additional strips as illustrated in Fig. 4).

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In regard to the limitations of applicant's claims regarding a thermal barrier, *Betta et al.* notes that it is desirable that the catalyst coated channels and the catalyst-free/uncoated channels have a structures that result in promoting combustion in the catalyst channels while minimizing this combustion in the non-coated channels (see col. 6, lines 7-17). *Betta et al.* further notes that the use of non-catalytic barrier layers are known in the art (see col. 13, lines 13-18) and it is understood there is a leading zone in the catalytic structure that is distinct from the remaining zones in order to improve light off characteristics (see col. 13, lines 59-65). The examiner regards these disclosures as teaching that a portion of some of the coated channels include, only in a vicinity of the inlet end, a thermal barrier which inhibits heat transfer from a coated channel to an uncoated channel.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. *Nagumo, Bak, Hanakata et al., Dalla Betta et al.* (US # 5,232,357), *Retallick et al.* (US # 6,334,769), and EP 0 724 069 are included to further show the state of the art concerning catalytic combustors with coated and uncoated channels or thermal barrier layers.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Josiah Cocks whose telephone number is (703) 305-0450. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett, can be reached at (703) 308-0101. The fax phone numbers for this

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Group are (703) 308-7764 for regular communications and (703) 305-3463 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

jcc
September 30, 2003


JOSIAH COCKS
PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3743